

NEWS RELEASE



*Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Louisiana*

DONALD W. WASHINGTON
United States Attorney

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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**Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)**

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ST. LANDRY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CRACK COCAINE POSSESSION CHARGE

Opelousas, Louisiana man faces 5 to 40 years in federal prison

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . BRIAN KEITH CLARK, age 27, from Opelousas, Louisiana pled guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Rebecca Doherty to possession with intent to distribute over five grams of crack cocaine, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington.

CLARK was indicted in November 2002 as a result of investigations by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) Mobile Enforcement Team (MET). The Mobile Enforcement Team is typically requested by community leaders in order to address significant drug trafficking activities in their communities. This case was one of 20 arising from the DEA operation conducted in Opelousas and surrounding areas in mid-2002.

In pleading guilty today, CLARK admits to possessing with intent to distribute approximately 17.9 grams of crack cocaine in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana in July 2004.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the Court. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

CLARK faces a minimum of five (5) years and a maximum of forty (40) years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of supervised release of not more than five (5) years after serving his prison sentence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Todd Clemons.

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